

Recent Books from Cambodia – Nov 2019

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Art

Traces of Trauma: Cambodian Visual Culture and National Identity in the Aftermath of Genocide / Boreth Ly (Series Eds) David Chandler & Rita Smith Kipp

Southeast Asia – Politics, Meaning, and Memory Series

Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2020

174p. ; 29 color, 7 b&w illustrations

9780824856069

1. Arts, Cambodian.
2. Nationalism and the arts – Cambodia.
3. Genocide – Cambodia – Psychological aspects.

\$ 59.00 / HB

452gm.

How do the people of a morally shattered culture and nation find ways to go on living? Cambodians confronted this challenge following the collective disasters of the American bombing, the civil war, and the Khmer Rouge genocide. The magnitude of violence and human loss, the execution of artists and intellectuals, the erasure of individual and institutional cultural memory all caused great damage to Cambodian arts, culture, and society. Author Boreth Ly explores the “traces” of this haunting past in order to understand how Cambodians at home and in the diasporas deal with trauma on such a vast scale.

Ly maintains that the production of visual culture by contemporary Cambodian artists and writers—photographers, filmmakers, court dancers, and poets—embodies traces of trauma, scars leaving an indelible mark on the body and the psyche. His book considers artists of different generations and family experiences: a Cambodian-American woman whose father sent her as a baby to the United States to be adopted; the Cambodian-French film-maker, Rithy Panh, himself a survivor of the Khmer Rouge, whose film *The Missing Picture* was

nominated for an Oscar in 2014; a young Cambodian artist born in 1988—part of the “post-memory” generation. The works discussed include a variety of materials and remnants from the historical past: the broken pieces of a shattered clay pot, the scarred landscape of bomb craters, the traditional symbolism of the checkered scarf called *krama*, as well as the absence of a visual archive.

Boreth Ly’s poignant book explores obdurate traces that are fragmented and partial, like the acts of remembering and forgetting. His interdisciplinary approach, combining art history, visual studies, psychoanalysis, cultural studies, religion, and philosophy, is particularly attuned to the diverse body of material discussed in his book, which includes photographs, video installations, performance art, poetry, and mixed media. By analyzing these works through the lens of trauma, he shows how expressions of a national trauma can contribute to healing and the reclamation of national identity.

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Economics/Development Studies

The Belt and Road Initiative and its Implications for Cambodia’s Development / (Eds) Neak Chandarith, Nguon Pheakkdey & Sam Ath Sambath Sreysour

Phnom Penh: Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Center of the Royal University of Phnom Penh, 2019
xvii, 191p.

9789924932307

\$ 45.00 / PB

320gm.

The 190-page book focuses on the implications of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on the development of Cambodia. It also provides suggestions on the political and strategic, economic and financial, socio-cultural and environmental implications of BRI according to CMSRRC’s Director Neak Chandarith.

The book asserts that BRI is an engine of economic growth for Cambodia through different sectors including the development of industrialisation, trade, investment expansion and tourism growth.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666765>

Official Publications

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2019-2023

Phnom Penh: National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, 2018

1v.

\$ 40.00 / PB

310gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=666767>
